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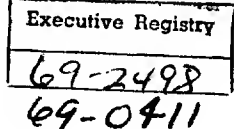
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May 12, 1969



The Honorable Richard Helms
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20506

Dear Mr. Helms:

I was very much interested in the report of your speech at Hot Springs, particularly the observation that the future course of adequate defense may prove impossible for both the United States and Russia to bear. This is a problem that has greatly troubled me and a number of my colleagues.

The Subcommittee on Economy in Government of the Joint Economic Committee is planning hearings in June on the subject of national priorities, including defense. I don't have to elaborate to you the vital importance of this issue to our civilization. Your statement runs to the very heart of the subject, and it would be tremendously helpful to us if you would come and testify at those hearings. It seems to me that the Congress and the public have a right to know as much as possible about these fundamental questions.

I might add at this time that your staff are helping in the preparation of a Committee study on the relation between the Soviet economy and its military programs. We have analyzed this subject in our previous studies of the Soviet Union, but it assumes greater and greater importance as you evidently made obvious in your reported speech. We plan to have hearings on this subject too, and would be delighted to have your testimony cover this subject as well.

Tentatively, I am thinking of the third week in June as the time when I would like you to testify. If that time is not convenient, I would, of course, be willing to consider an alternative date. Meanwhile, I think you deserve praise for looking ahead to this frightening problem that the present arms race raises.

Sincerely,

William Proxmire
Chairman

Subcommittee on Economy in Government

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Remarks: <div style="margin-left: 100px;"> <i>1E2</i> <i>Let's get Jack Smith</i> <i>and talk this over.</i> <div style="text-align: right;"><i>mt</i></div> </div>		
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